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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Letter dated 22 July 1970 from the Permanent Representative of Jordan  
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to Your Excellency's attention the following Israeli violation concerning Jerusalem.

The Israeli occupying forces levied Israeli defence taxes on Jordanian citizens of occupied Jerusalem and its environs and are using arbitrary measures to collect such taxes. A taxi owner is to pay 5 Jordanian dinars (equivalent to \$14) a month. An owner of a wholesale shop is to pay 40 Jordanian dinars (equivalent to \$112) a month, while a grocery or shop-owner is to pay 5 Jordanian dinars (\$14) a month.

The inhabitants of Jerusalem have expressed their rejection of such Israeli illegal measures through protests and a general strike. The New York Times of 31 May 1970 reported that "The strike today (30 May) had been threatened for three weeks, since the Arabs in Jerusalem began receiving notices to pay the Israeli defence taxes.... To some, it was an affront to be asked to pay for the defence of Israel.... The strike had been planned as a demonstration of resentment...."

The Security Council, in its resolution 267 (1969) of 3 July 1969, censured "in the strongest terms all measures taken to change the status of the City of Jerusalem", confirmed that "all legislative and administrative measures and actions by Israel which purport to alter the status of Jerusalem including expropriation of land and properties thereon are invalid and cannot change that

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status", and urgently called "once more upon Israel to rescind forthwith all measures taken by it which may tend to change the status of the City of Jerusalem, and in future to refrain from all actions likely to have such an effect".

Israel neither rescinded measures already taken nor refrained from taking new actions to change the political, legal and demographic status of Jerusalem. Israel's illegal measures together with its occupation, which constitutes a continued act of aggression, are categorically rejected by the people of Jerusalem. These measures and policies are in defiance of United Nations resolutions and in direct violation of the Geneva Conventions of 1949. This defiance had been underlined by Your Excellency's report of 5 December 1969 (S/9537).

Because of Israel's continued occupation and defiance, and because of measures Israel has undertaken to change the status of Jerusalem and its environs, the United Nations is called upon to stand up for its authority and take effective measures to stop such irresponsible behaviour. This is more so since the Security Council, in its resolution 271 (1969) of 15 September 1969, reiterated that in the event of Israel's "negative response or no response, the Security Council shall convene without delay to consider what further action should be taken in this matter".

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhammad H. EL-FARRA  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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